



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.                  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/689,232                       | 10/20/2003  | Alan A. Gilmore      | 0275D-113COE        | 4076             |
| 27572                            | 7590        | 09/21/2004           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. |             |                      |                     | DUDA, RINA I     |
| P.O. BOX 828                     |             |                      |                     |                  |
| BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303       |             |                      |                     |                  |
|                                  |             | ART UNIT             |                     | PAPER NUMBER     |
|                                  |             | 2837                 |                     |                  |

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                         |                  |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.         | Applicant(s)     |  |
|                              | 10/689,232              | GILMORE, ALAN A. |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Rina I Duda | Art Unit<br>2837 |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 21-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 21-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/31/04.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear whether the limitation within parentheses in part of the invention.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 21, 30-40, 44-47, 50-56, and 60-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Germanton et al (US Patent 5014793).

Claims 21, 30-38, 47, Germanton et al describe a controller for operating portable power tools comprising a motor 42 for driving an output spindle 16, a battery for providing power to the hand held tool, a power switching device 41 for applying constant frequency PWM signal to the motor, and a controller including means 34, 36, 40, and 43 for controlling the power switching device 41, monitoring operating characteristics such as current/speed/voltage of the power tool, and controlling the

PWM signal in response to a change in the operating characteristic to thereby cause the power tool to operate in pulses, see figure 1-3 and corresponding descriptions.

Claim 39, Germanton et al describe switch 17 connected to the tool controller, the controller controls the amount of power to the motor based of the position of the switch, see column 6 lines 48-64.

Claim 40, Germanton et al describe 7 lines 39-58 how the duty cycle of the PWM signal changes according to the output from the trigger switch.

Claims 44-46, 50-56, and 60-80, Germanton et al describes a power tool including a first switch 13 for controlling the amount of power to the motor and a second switch 17 for causing the tool controller to operate the motor in a pulse mode, wherein the first switch modulates the power to the motor in accordance with the position of the switch and the second switch causes discontinuous incremental rotation of the output spindle, see column 7 lines 4-68, column 8 lines 1-28, and figures 1-3.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 22-29, 41-43, 48, 49, and 57-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Germanton et al (US Patent 5014793).

Germanton et al discloses the claimed invention except for the specific frequency for the PWM signals. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention was made to choose a frequency range of less than 50Hz, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

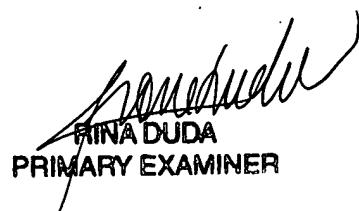
7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The documents cited teach various systems for controlling the power applied to a portable power tool.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rina I Duda whose telephone number is 571-272-2062.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached at 571-272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RD



RINA DUDA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER